



# LEED V5 & THE FUTURE OF EMBODIED CARBON

## LEED V5 IS HERE!

LEED will now update every five years, from 2025 through 2050, marking the most significant structural update since LEED v2009. This version modernizes the rating system, aligning it with today’s sustainability challenges and pushing for further market transformation.



## WHAT’S NEW IN LEED V5?

- **Stronger Platinum Certification Requirements**  
New criteria focused on energy efficiency, carbon emissions, and renewable energy.
- **Expanded Performance Tracking**  
Unified framework for design, construction & operations.
- **Clear Decarbonization Standards**  
Overhaul of materials credit to incorporate decarbonization standards.

## IMPACT AREAS

LEED v5 isn’t just about today’s buildings; it’s about building a better future. It’s a comprehensive framework designed to drive the market towards a near-zero carbon reality that is equitable, resilient, and promotes the wise, safe use of all resources. At its core, LEED v5 focuses on three key impact areas:

### DECARBONIZATION

- Reducing operational & embodied carbon
- Phasing out fossil fuel-dependent equipment
- Promoting building electrification



### QUALITY OF LIFE

- Improving health, well-being, and equity
- Enhancing resilience for communities and building occupants



### ECOLOGICAL CONSERVATION & RESTORATION

- Limiting environmental degradation
- Encouraging nature-based solutions



## PLATINUM JUST GOT HARDER

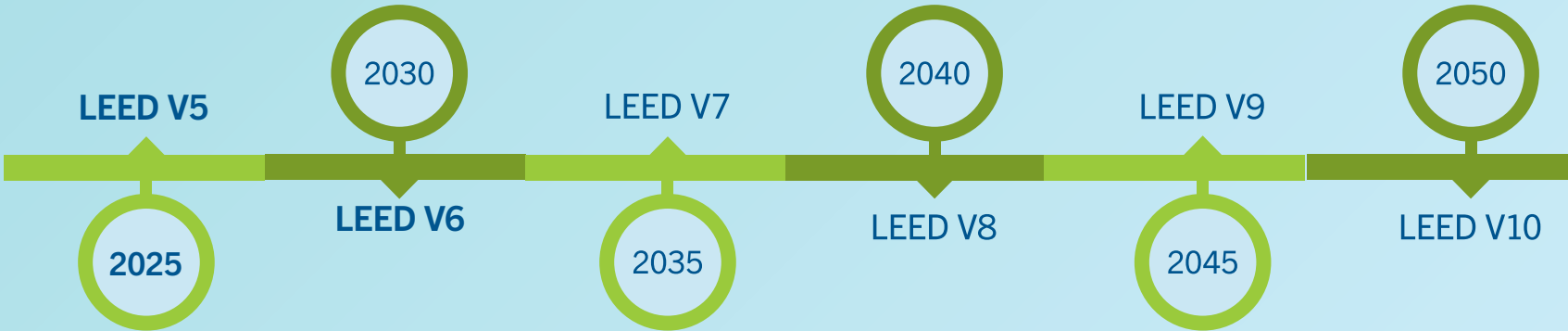
- **No more fossil fuels:** To achieve Platinum certification, buildings must be all-electric —burning fossil fuels is no longer permitted.
- **Standardized zero-emission targets:** USGBC is aligning with the White House’s definition of zero emissions, ensuring consistency across projects.
- **Electrification & peak thermal load credits:** Incentives for fully electric buildings and reduced peak energy demand.

## WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR OUR JOBSITES?

- **Phased adoption:** LEED v5 will be fully available in 2025, while LEED v4 & v4.1 registration remains open for an estimated six-year transition period.
- **Enhanced material sourcing scrutiny:** Projects must document where materials come from and their full lifecycle carbon impact (A1-C4).
- **Lifecycle emissions tracking:** Teams will need better documentation beyond procurement to meet new embodied carbon standards.

## LOOKING AHEAD: THE LEED TRAJECTORY

For the first time, LEED will now be updated on a predictable five-year cycle, with new versions planned every five years from 2025 through 2050. The goal? A zero-carbon, resilient, and equitable built environment.



As the industry adapts, early awareness and education will be critical. Understanding embodied carbon (A1-D below, excluding operational carbon B6 & B7) will help us stay ahead of LEED’s evolving sustainability goals.



\*colorized section of the carbon lifecycle analysis are relevant to the content on this poster

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